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Wilderness Homeland

by

Anna Gaby-Trotz

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

in

Printmaking

Art and Design

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Spring 2012

Edmonton, Alberta

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Anna Gaby-Trotz

annagt6@gmail.com

www.annagabytrotz.com

EDUCATION

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2012 | University of Alberta
MFA printmaking |
| 2007 | University of Guelph
BAH Studio arts; Deans honors list; graduating 2007 |
| 2003-04 | Ryerson University
Photo media |
| 2002-03 | University of Toronto
General arts |

WORK EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2012 | Boyle Street Artist in Residence, Edmonton Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently working to create and facilitate a print based program at Boyle Street Community Services• Working to engage inner city homeless adults and youth in community arts |
| 2009-11 | Instructor and Teaching Assistant, University of Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substitute Instructor: Introduction to Lithography Printmaking• Substitute Instructor: Introduction to Intaglio Relief Printmaking• Principle Instructor: Introduction to Intaglio Relief Printmaking• Teaching Assistant: Art Fundamentals• Teaching Assistant: Senior Printmaking |
| 2011 | Assistant Arts Workshop Facilitator, Smbaa' Ke Print Studio, Trout Lake, NT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitated print based community programs for adults and youth• Engaging people new to printmaking in workshops |
| 2008-09 | Safety Coordinator, Boundless Adventures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinated safety for outdoor programs for youth at risk, adult/youth mental health, people with acquired brain injuries• Set up an arts curriculum for summer high school courses. |
| 2008-10 | Founder, This is Heartbreakingly Canadian <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founded company to promote Canadian images in print• Produced hand screen-printed clothing• Marketed merchandise at festivals and craft sales |

- 2002-06 Guide, Camp Wanapitei Co Ed Canoe Tripping Camp
- Wilderness canoe guide involved in planning two, two-month expeditions in the Yukon and NWT's
- 2005-07 Printmaking and Photography Monitor, University of Guelph
- Assisted with the maintenance of the print and photography studios
 - Provided technical assistance to students during printing

EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Unstable Natures, L'Attitude Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2012 New Alberta Contemporaries, Calgary, Alberta
- 2011 Wilderness Homeland, University of Alberta, FAB Gallery, Edmonton, AB
- 2011 New Alberta Contemporaries, Calgary, Alberta
- 2011 Reflections Portfolio, Boulder, Colorado
- 2010 40 Years, 40 Printmakers, Open Studio, Toronto, Ontario
- 2010 BIMPE, SNAP, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2010 Material Events, Printopolis, Poor John's Café, Toronto, Ontario
- 2010 Flesh of the Land, Printopolis, Mitzi's Sister, Toronto, Ontario
- 2010 Open Studio, Artist Proof Sale, Toronto, Ontario
- 2010 In Between Surfaces, SNAP, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2009 Open Studio, Artist Proof Sale, Toronto, Ontario
- 2009 Queen Street West Art Crawl, Toronto, Ontario
- 2009 SNAP, A Print Affair, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2010 SNAP, In Between Surfaces, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2008 Open Studio, Artist Proof Sale, Toronto, Ontario
- 2008 John B Aird Gallery, Juried Print Show, Toronto, Ontario
- 2008 Queen Street West Art Crawl, Toronto, Ontario
- 2008 Environs, Juried Art Show, Scarborough Arts Council, Toronto, ON
- 2008 Landscapes, Poor John's Café, Toronto, Queen St. W., Toronto, Ontario
- 2007 John B Aird Gallery, Juried Print Show, Toronto, Ontario
- 2007 Juried Art Show, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
- 2007 Print Show and Sale, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
- 2007 A Maudlin Saga, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
- 2007 Juried Art Show, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
- 2006 Print Show and Sale, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
- 2006 Artifacts, Solo show: Poor John's Cafe, Toronto, Queen W, Toronto, ON
- 2006 PHOTO6, University of Guelph: Zavitz Gallery, Guelph, Ontario
- 2006 Print Show and Sale, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
- 2005 Juried Art Show, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
- 2004 Eyeball, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

AWARDS and GRANTS

- 2012 Alberta Foundation of the Arts Research Grant
- 2011 Northern Scientific Training Program/CBAR Grant
- 2010 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Award (SSHRC)

2010	Melba Sadler Award, University of Alberta
2010	Arctic Institute of North America Grant in Aid
2010	Northern Scientific Training Program/ CBAR Grant
2010	Alberta Foundation of the Arts Graduate Scholarship for Art and Design
2009	Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship
2007	University of Guelph Printmaking Award "Outstanding contribution to the medium of printmaking"

Wilderness Homeland

"Who can define the moods of the wild places, the meaning of nature in domains beyond those of material use? Here are worlds of experience beyond the world of the aggressive man, beyond history, and beyond science. The moods and qualities of nature and the revelations of great art are equally difficult to define; we can grasp them only in the depths of our perceptive spirits." – Ansel Adams

Wilderness Homeland is an attempt to explore my relationship to the land. It is a collection of images gathered from a trip last summer on the Nahanni River in the North West Territories. Many are from an area called "The Cirque of the Unclimbables". These spaces are sacred. In them I sense a deep and silent questioning. In a world where things are constantly changing – people, the earth, water, the planet – these rocks, this water, these spaces have been guardians of this land. They have felt shifts and changes long before humans began to measure them. Every small shift, every change in wind is echoed in these spaces.

There is a beautiful darkness in these silent moments. There is an acknowledgment that there is something bigger than us, not in the religious sense, though some have tried to illustrate this kind of power in landscape, but in a raw power. There is a vulnerability that one feels being exposed in a place that is completely out of one's control. In an interview for the book *Dark Mountain Volume II*, David Abram talks about the land: "It's shot through with shadows and predation and risk—it's fucking dangerous, this place—but it's mighty beautiful precisely because it's so shadowed and riven with difficulty." (Abram 63)

This summer I had the honor of travelling to Trout Lake in the North West Territories. I was witness to a place where the landscape is still a living and breathing entity. It is a modern Dene community—albeit a remote one—but it still retains the stories and memories and ways of a people who have an incredible understanding of survival. In this environment of people and place, I contemplated why it is that I work in the land. Instead of answers I came away with many more questions: why do I go back to the North to learn from the landscape and people? Why do I not photograph those people? Why are we destroying the landscape as we know it? Why more pipe lines? How has it come to be that we think that technology can fix everything? These questions provoked a feeling of sadness and inadequacy to solve these problems. I am constantly wary of the possible trap of capturing beautiful remote places merely for pleasure and consumption.

I offer these images as reflections of this way of thinking. These images I present today are ones that are about listening to these seemingly silent places. They are about the duality between light and dark, beauty and decay, and strength and fragility. In "Endgame" Derek Jenson writes a beautiful chapter called "Listening to the Land." Jenson begins to examine the state of our environment. In this chapter, Jenson explores the possibility that the death and destruction that we human beings impose

on ourselves could be a result of the way in which we have devalued the spiritual and metaphorical understanding of what it means to live:

This death urge is partly a desire to die to this way of living that does not serve us well, but because we in this culture have forgotten that the spiritual exists, and have devalued the metaphorical, we do not understand that this death does not have to be physical, but could be transformative. (Jensen 89)

I believe that there often is a simplistic misconception about landscape art, and that this form of visual representation has the potential to extend its meaning well beyond the literal and physical depiction of a space to exist on the metaphorical level of transformation. This landscape is not just about beauty – it is about life and death. The way we are stewards to the land on which we live is vital to our survival as a species. It is my hope that in some way these images can inspire a sense of connection to the land, or perhaps a questioning of the growing disconnect our society has to it. It is my hope that we will listen.

Anna Gaby-Trotz, 2011

Works Cited

Abram, David. "Coming to Our (Animal) Senses." *Dark Mountain*. Ed. Dougald Hine and Ed. Paul Kingsworth. *Dark Mountain Project*, 2011. 61-73. Print.

Jensen, Derrick. "Endgame Volume I: The Problem with Civilization." New York: Seven Stories Press, 2006.

Anna Gaby-Trotz "DVD Image List"

File name: 01Gaby-Trotz
Title: Tuffa
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 28"x42"

File name: 02Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque Meadow
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 28"x42"

File name: 03Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque Mist
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 28"x42"

File name: 04Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque Mist II
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 28"x42"

File name: 05Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque Mist III
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 28"x42"

File name: 06Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque of the Undimbables
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 42"x63"

File name: 07Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque of the Undimbables II
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 42"x63"

File name: 08Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque of the Unclimbables III
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 42"x63"

File name: 09Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque of the Unclimbables IV
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 42"x63"

File name: 10Gaby-Trotz
Title: Cirque of the Unclimbables V
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 42"x63"

File name: 11Gaby-Trotz
Title: Listening to the Land
Date: 2011
Materials: compressed charcoal on mylar
Dimensions: 42"x84"

File name: 12Gaby-Trotz
Title: Listening to the Land II
Date: 2011
Materials: compressed charcoal on mylar
Dimensions: 42"x84"

File name: 13Gaby-Trotz
Title: Listening to the Land III
Date: 2011
Materials: compressed charcoal on mylar
Dimensions: 42"x84"

File name: 14Gaby-Trotz
Title: Listening to the Land IV
Date: 2011
Materials: compressed charcoal on mylar
Dimensions: 42"x84"

File name: 15Gaby-Trotz
Title: Listening to the Land (Installation shot)
Date: 2011
Materials: compressed charcoal on mylar
Dimensions: 42"x84"

File name: 16Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 17Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land II
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 18Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land III
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 19Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land IV
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 20Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land V
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 21Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land VI
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 22Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land VII
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 23Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land VIII
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 24Gaby-Trotz
Title: Home Land IX
Date: 2011
Materials: archival digital print
Dimensions: 19"x26"

File name: 25Gaby-Trotz
Title: On the Land
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 24"x36"

File name: 26Gaby-Trotz
Title: On the Land II
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 24"x36"

File name: 27Gaby-Trotz
Title: On the Land III
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 24"x36"

File name: 28Gaby-Trotz
Title: On the Land IIII
Date: 2011
Materials: photo etching, dry point
Dimensions: 24"x36"





























































